

## IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) Precipitated calcium carbonate having a secondary particle diameter of 1 to 10  $\mu\text{m}$ , each secondary particle and consisting of flocculated primary particles of spindle-shaped calcium carbonate having a long diameter of 0.5 to 3.0  $\mu\text{m}$ , a short diameter of 0.1 to 1.0  $\mu\text{m}$  and an aspect ratio of 3 or more, wherein the BET specific surface area is in the range of 8 to 20  $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ , and the pore volume is in the range of 1.5 to 3.5  $\text{cm}^3/\text{g}$ .

2. (Currently Amended) A method for producing the precipitated calcium carbonate as defined in claim 1, wherein carbon dioxide or carbon dioxide containing gas is blown into a calcium hydroxide slurry having a calcium hydroxide concentration of 100 to 400 g/L obtained by wet slaking calcined lime whose 4 N hydrochloric acid activity (value at 3 minutes) is adjusted to 150 to 400 mL for reaction until the carbonation rate is 50 to 85% by volume of the calcium hydroxide slurry is added, and carbon dioxide or carbon dioxide containing gas is then introduced ~~further blow-in~~ to terminate the reaction.

3. (Currently amended) Precipitated calcium carbonate manufactured by the producing method of ~~according to~~ Claim 2.

4. (Previously presented) The precipitated calcium carbonate according to Claim 3, wherein the BET specific surface area is in the range of 8 to 20  $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ , and the pore volume is in the range of 1.5 to 3.5  $\text{cm}^3/\text{g}$ .

5. (Previously presented) A filler for loading paper, which contains the precipitated calcium carbonate according to Claim 1.

6. (Original) A loaded paper, which contains the filler for loading paper according to Claim 5.

7. (Original) A loaded paper, which contains 5 to 50 parts by weight of the

filler for loading paper according to Claim 5 based on pulp material as 100 parts by weight.

8. (Previously presented) A filler for loading paper, which contains the precipitated calcium carbonate according to Claim 3.

9. (Previously presented) A filler for loading paper, which contains the precipitated calcium carbonate according to Claim 4.